

Routes to tour in Germany

The German Fairy Tale Route

German roads will get you there — even if nostalgia is your destination. On your next visit why not call to mind those halcyon childhood days when your mother or father told you fairy tales, maybe German ones? The surroundings in which our great fairy tale writers lived or the scenes in which the tales themselves were set will make their meaning even clearer and show you that many are based on a fairly realistic background.

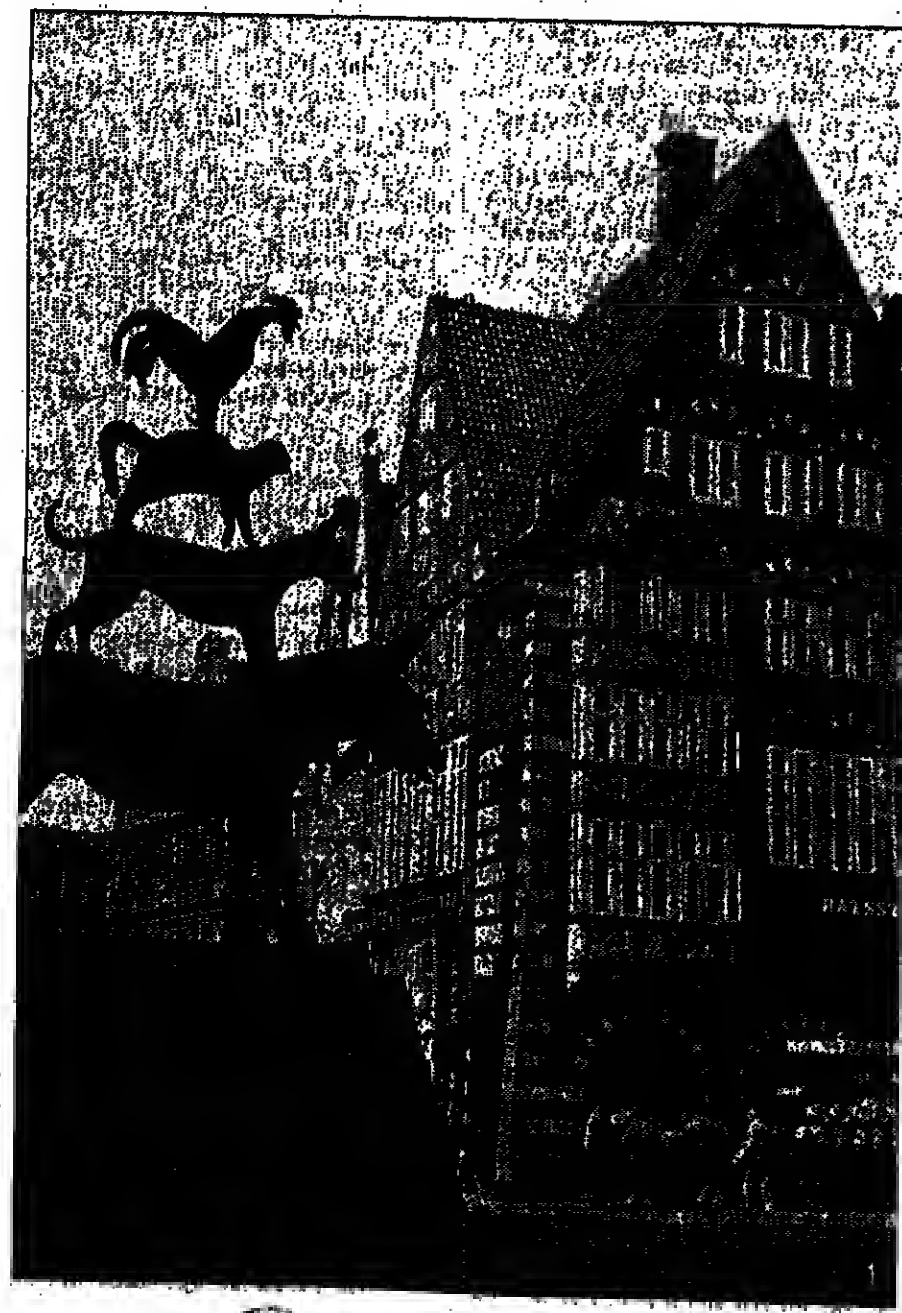
On a tour from Hanau, near Frankfurt, where the Brothers Grimm were born, to Bremen, where the Town Band (consisting of a donkey, a dog, a cat and a cockerel) played such dreadful music that it put even robbers to flight, you will enjoy the varying kinds of countryside. And do stop over at Bodenwerder. That was where Baron Münchhausen told his breathtaking lies.

Visit Germany and let the Fairy Tale Route be your guide.



- 1 Bremen
- 2 Bodenwerder, home of the Brothers Grimm
- 3 Hanau, birthplace of the Brothers Grimm
- 4 Alsfeld

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Gromyko in Bonn for talks with Kohl

Brezhnev's death has reactivated East-West diplomacy. His successor, Yuri Andropov, is worth talking to, and this is a view President Reagan will no doubt share.

America will soon be preparing for next year's Presidential elections and Mr Reagan is sure to feel a summit meeting with the new Soviet leader will be useful for domestic consumption.

This should reassure Western Europeans worried about the trend in relations between Moscow and Washington.

Mr Gromyko's visit to Bonn started the ball rolling. Within a single week Moscow kept its options open regardless of who wins at the polls in the March general election.

The Soviet government has clearly held its fire on Christian Democratic Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Yet days before Mr Gromyko's visit it gave the Opposition leader and Social Democratic Shadow Chancellor Hans-Jochen Vogel a sterling welcome in Moscow.

Herr Vogel in Moscow was clearly electioneering. The Kremlin lent him very encouragement without going so far as to snub the current Bonn government.

So Soviet policy on Germany is astutely twin-track in character and in more ways than one. After visiting Bonn Mr Gromyko stopped over in East Berlin.

The visit paid by the Soviet Foreign Minister nonetheless testified to the importance the Soviet government continues to attach to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Bonn has been Moscow's foremost contact in the West ever since the Soviet Union has no longer been able to negotiate pragmatically with the United States, which in the Soviet view has been ever since the end of the Nixon-Kissinger era.

Soviet ties with Britain are at rock bottom, while President Mitterrand of France, with his mistrustful attitude toward the Soviet Union, has dispensed with the independent French *Ostpolitik* his predecessors favoured.

The French leader's outlook seems to combine domestic policy considerations and a personal dislike, but it looks as though ties with Paris may be under review.

France's Foreign Minister, Claude Cheysson, is to pay Moscow his first visit at the beginning of February.

Japan, finally, does good business with the Russians but keeps political ties to a diplomatic minimum.

Missiles were naturally the main item on the agenda during Mr Gromyko's visit to Bonn. Moscow was keen to push its view, wielding the stick and the carrot.

The carrot consisted of concessions if Bonn were to dispense with missile modernisation, coupled with the prospect of spectacular business deals.

The stick was the threat of counter-measures in the armaments sector, coupled with gloomy forecasts of a deterioration in ties.

Much of this was mere jowboning, but it seldom fails to have an effect on the Germans.



Foreign Minister Genscher welcoming Mr Gromyko to Bonn
(Photo: Sven Simon)

Arms control and the man

The change of government in Bonn has not brought about any clear change in relations between the two countries, so there is no reason why the new Bonn government should not view the situation with self-assurance.

For the Soviet Union, Bonn may fairly argue, the arguments in favour of continued cordial ties with the Federal Republic continue to outweigh those in favour of confrontation with Russia's major Western neighbour.

So it was only right for Mr Gromyko's attention to be drawn to a number of sore points in German-Soviet relations.

Repatriation of ethnic Germans from the Soviet Union is one such point. Fewer exit visas are issued, and waiting-lists grow longer.

Economic ties is another. Germany will increasingly be in the red in trade ties as Soviet gas exports gain momentum. In the long term the balance must be redressed by large-scale Soviet orders from German firms.

German companies have too often come second-best in trade with the East lately, especially in competition with French firms.

Peter Seidlitz
(Kleider Nachrichten, 15 January 1983)

One of his jibes at the Germans in a critical essay was that where America was concerned they tended to be notorious name-droppers.

Initially interested Germans may well list people they know in the United States but Mr Vinograd fails to realise that Germans are bound to be keen to know who thinks about them and contributes toward policy decisions on Germany in America.

US officials concerned with Germany and Central Europe may be a minor aspect of German-American ties, but here in Germany importance is attached to it.

Names such as those encountered among US arms control diplomats, Rostow, Staur, Nitze and Rowley for instance, have long been firmly established.

They are all experienced men. All know their Central Europe; it is where they hail from ancestrally. None of them can be suspected of harbouring illusions about the Soviet Union.

The men who will take over from them are half their age and from a generation that can be statistically shown to have very little idea of Europe.

They may be anti-communist in outlook but their views will thus not be as finely graduated as would be desirable for conducting negotiations.

So it is hardly surprising that the enforced resignation of Gene Rostow has not been well received in the European Press.

The real reasons why he resigned are unclear. Senate right-wingers are known to have played a part, with their suspicious

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Wörner upset by Congress

the purchase abroad of arms and equipment containing special metals.

Bonn Defence Minister Manfred Wörner is deeply disappointed and has harshly criticised the Congress decision.

He will have been thinking less in terms of the low level of current arms trading than of the virtual ban on future cooperation.

If the United States rules out all orders in return, be they ever so symbolic, Herr Wörner will find it difficult to persuade the Bundestag to approve arms purchases from America.

Yet many of the Bundeswehr's land, sea- and air-based missiles are US-manufactured, and there is no immediate alternative.

So Herr Wörner's criticism of the US is only secondarily tub-thumping for German economic interests.

He is evidently keen to prevent a decline in confidence in the United States that Germany may well come to feel if America continues in this way to attach greater priority to US economic interests than to NATO unity.

The US arms industry may be heedless of the political glass it has broken, but Congress, to which Herr Wörner has appealed, ought to show a greater sense of political responsibility.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 January 1983)

WORLD AFFAIRS

Nato must live with its contradictions

President Reagan suspects that Warsaw Pact disarmament proposals outlined in the Prague Declaration are at least partly intended to sow the seeds of dissension between America and its allies in Western Europe.

So he is sending his Vice-President, George Bush, on a tour of Europe to show he feels close consultations with his NATO partners are a cornerstone of the Atlantic alliance.

Has the penny dropped in the White House? Dissension does not need first to be sown; it has long lurked, and partly because of far too much unmediated talk by leading members of the Reagan administration.

Like members of the Carter administration, they have said much that has had a serious bearing on the entire North Atlantic pact without having been dealt with beforehand in consultations with fellow-members of NATO.

It is clear that the forthright talk of a Brzezinski or a Weinberger, to name a particularly noteworthy hardliner in each of the two administrations, is bound to give rise to mistrust in Europe.

For geographical reasons alone there is a much more vital interest in coexistence and detente on this side of the Atlantic than in the United States, especially the west coast that is home to Mr Reagan and most of his associates.

A few months ago even the Nato C-in-C in Europe, General Bernard Rogers, voiced alarm about the initially shrill and militant tone of foreign policy rhetoric as used in Washington, and General Rogers is an American himself.

Yet even if leading Americans were in future to sound a note of greater moderation and to show signs of readiness and ability to compromise at the Geneva missile talks the tension and irritation that are so often apparent in dealings between Western Europe and its superpower these days would be no means have been eliminated.

Misunderstandings are too deep-seated on both sides, and clashes no-one would have dreamt of in 1949, when NATO was set up, have grown too serious.

Back in 1949 the Cold War ensured that the fronts were clear, while the absolute nuclear superiority enjoyed by the United States ensured a feeling of security that was totally unproblematic.

Besides, the Europeans in their war-ravaged countries felt it was a matter of course to allow the Americans the leading role.

They were economically powerful and, as Marshall aid clearly showed, willing to lend a helping hand.

Nowadays a sense of economic rivalry has emerged, intensified by the general crisis, and keywords such as steel and grain are all that need be said to illustrate how the Nato countries are competing for sales markets.

By trying to impose an embargo on the Soviet gas pipeline deal with Western Europe the White House has even succeeded in impressing on the Europeans their common interests.

Clashes such as these at least at a mile, but the alliance is burdened no less heavily on both sides of the Atlantic by mutual

prejudice, with the Reagan administration merely making matters worse. Europeans have long tended somewhat disparagingly to look down on the Americans as lacking in civilisation and being too brash and given to using their elbows.

US budget planning aimed at thoroughly stripping welfare spending to boost military expenditure was all that was needed!

At the same time the average American, who as a rule is poorly briefed on world affairs, tends to see Western Europe increasingly as a gang of untrustworthy neutrals.

This view may have been amended since the appearance on the US domestic scene of an increasingly powerful nuclear freeze movement (at least among supporters of the freeze movement).

A further factor is that since the withdrawal from former colonial possessions and interests by Britain and France it has been increasingly up to the United States to assume the role of world policeman and take up cudgels against Soviet tendencies toward aggression.

So Elliot P. Cohen of Harvard says NATO is in a state of permanent crisis that seems sure to mean the end of the pact in its present structure sooner or later.

The treatment he recommends in an article printed simultaneously in *Foreign Affairs* and *Europe-Aschiv* is for America, while maintaining its nuclear presence in Europe, to drastically thin out its troop strength on this side of the Atlantic.

That would enable the Americans to make troops available for boosting US commitments outside NATO's operational area.

He does not even rule out a helping hand from Washington in setting up Anglo-German or Anglo-French forces equipped with medium-range missiles.

But this would presuppose that Western Europe took its defence into its own hands at last.

These are ideas this writer feels are more likely to heighten the Atlantic dilemma than to resolve it.

NATO will have to live with its contradictions until such time as its members succeed in striking a common balance between military firmness and political flexibility.

The only way to resolve matters would be for Europeans to revert to integration and Americans to revert to moderation.

Felix Hartleb
(Nürnberg Nachrichten, 11 January 1983)

Continued from page 1
clones that the State Department is not sound enough on principles.

They were certainly to blame for the refusal to approve Mr Grey as Mr Roskow's deputy after his name had been put forward for nearly a year.

Secretary of State Shultz, a man in whom Europeans have confidence, says it is merely a matter of streamlining responsibilities for arms control.

This may be reassuring news but it does not entirely offset the detrimental effect of a reshuffle at this stage in the proceedings.

European observers are beginning to wonder whether President Reagan is still capable of heading advice and how the struggle to gain his ear will progress.

Germany would be unlikely to devote much thought to US government appointments were it not that so much depended on them for their country.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 January 1983)

Genscher backs EEC security concept at Strasbourg

If we want to remain Germans, Italians, British or French, we will have to decide in time to become Europeans, Franz Josef Strauss wrote many years ago.

It was a view shared by Konrad Adenauer and reiterated in Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's inaugural speech to the European Assembly in Strasbourg as chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers.

Herr Genscher dealt at length with the aim of a common security policy in this light.

"More depends on the success of this process of European integration than living standards," he said. "The future of our basic political order is at stake."

This reaffirmation of Bonn's commitment to the European idea was widely welcomed by the 434 elected Euro-MPs from the 10 Common Market countries.

British MEPs, Tories especially, of course, but Labour men too, wished Herr Genscher, all the best, as chairman of the Council of Ministers for the first half of this year.

Even Rudt-Andt, a Social Democratic Euro-MP from Frankfurt, assured him of the support of the Socialist group at Strasbourg.

Herr Andt was unable to resist the temptation to engage in a little election campaigning for German domestic consumption before offering Herr Genscher Socialist support.

At a time when there are differences of emphasis between America and Europe on security policy issues such as the Siberian gas pipeline contract or economic sanctions against the East, there must be no doubts as to Bonn's continued earnestness on ties with the West.

Herr Genscher took good care to forestall any such impression with his statement.

He also said that a "strong and united Europe that clearly and constructively sees to its own interests in the alliance" would be a valuable and predictable partner for the United States during his chairmanship of the EEC.

It was worth noting, although scant notice was paid to it by the general public, that Herr Genscher as chairman of the European Community made a number of statements on security policy.

They were statements that must, by and large, have met with the approval of the other nine Common Market countries, otherwise he would not have been able to make them as chairman of the Council of Ministers.

They amounted to initial answers to the disarmament and arms control proposals made by the new Soviet leader, Mr Andropov, and the Warsaw Pact.

Herr Genscher has embarked on what might be termed a fog-clearing campaign in the security policy sector, especially in connection with talk of a treaty renouncing the use of force between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

The value of any such treaty would be strictly limited, as an initiative launched by Otto von Habsburg, the German CSU Euro-MP, has shown at Strasbourg.

In 1940, when the Soviet Union, in league with Hitler, annexed the Baltic states it broke non-aggression pledges given to all three countries.

The 1920 peace treaties of Riga and Moscow guaranteed the liberty of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian territory and everlasting friendship between the Soviet Union and all other states.

Continued Soviet occupation of Baltic states remained to this day a breach of the Helsinki CSCE Final Act.

Stalin's days may be over, but Warsaw Pact's offer of a treaty renouncing the use of force must not be allowed to distract attention from the issue that is really at stake.

The real problem is the lack of any military power in Europe.

What the European Community for in foreign policy cooperation which Helmut Kohl has persistently Genscher said, was arms control.

It has also rejected Mr Andropov's offer to simply reduce the Soviet arsenal to the number of Anglo-American missile systems: 162.

The nuclear armaments of France and the USSR, for one, less up to the SS-20, Anglo-French also have only one warhead.

The 162 Soviet SS-20 missiles, each with a triple warhead, would have a payload of 486 nuclear devices, three times as many as Britain's.

So there can be no question of Soviet offer antiliving either equal parity.

As an offer it is by no means equal to the British and French nuclear deterrents not being taken into account for the defence of Europe.

Besides, they cannot be dealt with the agenda of the Geneva missile talks, a legacy left behind by the until such time as Britain and France schoolmasterly behaviour in Washington.

Herr Genscher told Euro-MPs while Bonn was in the chair no would be left unturned in the way toward European security by means of a European Act.

This move was proposed two days ago by the German and Italian Foreign Ministers, Herr Genscher and Colombo. Drafting a European security concept is a cornerstone of the idea of "Europe," Herr Genscher said.

Strasbourg, "must not become an object; it must be a subject of an active response that came from common security and peace."

Herrmann Boll
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 14 January 1983)

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GENERAL ELECTION
Credibility is Helmut Kohl's strong point

Helmut Kohl, who has always been a country bumpkin who even three years after assuming office has not managed to get across either at home or abroad.

Yet world public opinion holds the Chancellor in high regard, and in fact he certainly does not give the impression of a fruit that has fallen from a tree and is likely to burst under the pressure.

Remarkably, it was not German public opinion that first discovered his qualities. They were discovered abroad even before they dawned on his own people, not to mention his natural enemies.

On his very first visit abroad as Chancellor, in Paris only a few hours after assuming office, Herr Kohl cut a fine figure with France's Socialist President, François Mitterrand, as surprise even those who knew him closely.

In Washington, Konrad Adenauer was the only other Chancellor to be asked by the US President to dine with the family at the White House.

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to discovering the secret of his success than he himself realised?

If there is anything that can explain the sympathy he effortlessly earned himself in foreign capitals, it can only be the fact that he represents a bit of German bourgeoisie that actually no longer exists.

Amid the toughness of today's policymaking and the brutality and disillusionment that go with it, something he still has to master, Kohl subconsciously symbolises to the nation the vestiges of nineteenth-century solid bourgeois dependability.

We have to journey far back in time to find these qualities. The journey takes us beyond Adenauer's republic that was struggling to find a suitable place in the fabric of things.

We have to journey beyond the Nazi regime (that dishonoured and crushed the best qualities of German bourgeois) and even beyond Weimar, an intellectualised and essentially non-bourgeois republic.

What is it that (at least at times over the past 200 years) earns this nation sympathy in the world even though Germany has never found it easy to make itself understood by other peoples?

Or, to put it cautiously and with a pinch of self-deprecation, what is it that the world dislikes least about us?

It is the Germany of solidity, a quality, much maligned by misguided progressive elements. It is our somewhat romantic uprightness and perhaps also our rather well-read, somewhat priggish bourgeoisie.

Only such a Germany can hope to overcome its social decay and gain the confidence of the West, something the Federal Republic of Germany has been striving for with less than unqualified success.

Germany forfeited much of its credibility in the last years of the Schmidt

era, particularly in the United States. And credibility at home and abroad is Helmut Kohl's most important asset. He would be a "nonentity" if he were not credible and if he did not convey the certainty that he will always remain so. It is no coincidence that he got to where he is now! His future will depend on whether or not the electorate is

imaginative enough to recognise the hidden motive force behind his rise, a rise that took time and had its setbacks. But less than two months before Germany goes to the polls in March it is still far removed from such a "realistic" decision to call

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such early elections at the inopportune moment of a winter of recession has caused a great deal of confusion in the CDU camp.

But the campaign strategists have sound arguments with which to back up the decision. And if world opinion is anything to go by, it would have been unwise of Kohl to have cancelled the poll for whatever reason.

For no other Chancellor has a bourgeois personality make-up spelled the same moral obligation.

Self-discipline that demands more from oneself than from others, a hallmark of liberal conservatism, is an essential part of idealism's heritage, even at the risk of having to pay a prohibitive price to a misguided and not always perceptive public opinion.

Those who ridicule the willingness to take such a risk as amateurish nevertheless subconsciously realise the psychological effectiveness of such an attitude.

What Kohl will be doing is essentially to ask the electorate whether it is prepared to restore the civic virtues, for which the Germans were once lauded or whether it holds that it is already too late to revert to the political realism from which the nation has tried to escape in the past few years.

Kohl is confident he will win a majority for realism on 6 March.

But the directness with which he pursues this aim indicates his conviction that, should he lose, many things in this country would become irreversible for good.

Some Germans might fall to realise this. But those who look on this country from the outside are beginning to grasp it.

They watched developments in Bonn during the Schmidt era with rising concern, nothing how Germany, which had ardently been integrated in the West, embarked on a foreign policy course of compromise with all the symptoms of overbearing self-assurance.

Even though the Germans might not have become fully aware of what happened to them with the change of government in Bonn, people abroad have.

This change has greatly helped to stabilise NATO and as a result of the change Bonn is once more pursuing a policy in keeping with its international weight.

Heine Barth
(Die Welt, 12 January 1983)

The slogan with which the CDU has homed in on the SPD is: "Unemployment, Debts, Bankruptcies — Not SPD Again."

But apart from using the media, the CDU also wants to step up personal discussions with its members and followers.

Like the SPD, the CDU will publish three topical campaign papers to reach every household (circulation 25 million).

Meanwhile, the campaign itself has become a campaign issue with the SPD going to the Constitutional Court in a bid to establish that the CDU has used government funds to promote its image in official government public relations work.

The CDU, on the other hand, accuses the SPD of rejecting a fair play agreement because it refuses to keep its campaign within a businesslike framework.

The fact is that all four Bundestag parties have welcomed a campaign agreement, though the SPD has rejected an arbitration committee similar to that of 1980, arguing that issues brought before the committee only added publicity to the defendant's case.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 7 January 1983)

All parties poised for campaign

Even before the President actually dissolved the Bundestag, the parties had named most of their constituency candidates, laid their campaign strategies and started a campaign about the campaign.

All parties will have to cope with an unaccustomed winter campaign. Another unaccustomed feature lies in the fact that the CDU is now also trying to project a "national" rather than purely Bavarian image.

But the CDU's poise in matters of manpower showed some cracks as it began its closed-door conference in Bad Kreuznach on 7 January.

The FDP's campaign kicked off with the party's traditional 6 January meeting in Stuttgart and a press conference given by FDP Secretary-General Irmingard Adam-Schwaezer.

The SPD will hold its campaign congress in Dortmund on 21 January when Shadow Chancellor Hans-Jochen Vogel has returned from his visits to Washington and Moscow.

All parties will have less money to spend than in 1980, though the FDP has already announced that it would not be "tight-fisted" since its parliamentary survival is at stake.

The SPD wants to spend only half the 1980 amount, and CDU general secretary Heiner Geissler has announced that his party will make do with DM29.8m. This is DM8m less than in 1980, which is to be offset by the advantage of being the party in power.

The CDU's main slogan will be "Work, Peace, Future — Together We'll Make It." In a campaign will be launched by a rally in Ludwigshafen to be addressed by leader Helmut Kohl and general secretary Geissler.

The first CDU advertisements hit the press on 10 January, and the first posters will be out on the 15th.

The pivotal point of the campaign is Kohl himself. The slogan here is: "This Chancellor Spells Confidence."

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President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl at the White House (Photo: Poly-Press)

POLITICS

Hans-Jochen Vogel does well in Washington

On his visit to Washington SPD Shadow Chancellor Hans-Jochen Vogel wanted to present himself as the man who has the better answers to the questions plaguing his fellow-citizens.

As his companion on the trip and fellow-Social Democrat Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski put it: "We have become more interesting to the Americans since the Hamburg election."

He was probably right, judging by the reception accorded to Vogel and his aides Egon Bahr, Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker and Wischnewski.

They were received by just about everybody who was anybody in Washington, from President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz to Defence Secretary Weinberger, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the administration's top disarmament experts.

Acting on the spur of the moment, even former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who has always shown great interest in Germany, joined the talks at one point.

Washington Post writers later said they had never known such a turnout of newsmen as at the press conference given by Vogel.

But the interest Washington showed in Hans-Jochen Vogel should not come as a surprise considering that, since the change of government in Bonn, Germany has been one of the few truly interesting foreign affairs topics in Europe.

The only thing that has outstripped it in reader interest has been the Bulgarian connection with the shooting of the Pope and routine reports on the marital bliss or otherwise of the British royal family.

The questions that occupy Washington's press are:

- Will the Germans swing to the left in the forthcoming election?
- Will the "Greens" take the place of the FDP as the junior coalition partner in a future Bonn government or are they not to be taken seriously as a political force?
- Was Genscher's shift from the SPD to the conservatives a lemming-like move?
- And who is this Hans-Jochen Vogel really?

Washington associates Germany's Social Democrats with such high-calibre names as Helmut Schmidt and Willy Brandt, whose reputations abroad are unmatched, promoted to some extent by the fact that both speak English fluently.

Vogel's English is a great deal better than that of Chancellor Kohl. And the ever-friendly and tolerant Americans appreciate it when a foreigner makes the effort to conduct discussions and interviews in a language other than his mother tongue.

In this somewhat arduous task Vogel acquitted himself splendidly, especially considering that it was not only the language that caused him trouble but also the topics of discussion.

After all, he has an far in his political career had nothing in do with missiles. He was unable to come up with an answer to the one question that truly interested his hosts — or at least, the answer he did come up with did not satisfy them.

It was his attitude towards the de-

ployment in Germany of the new generation of intermediate range missiles later this year.

This crucial question that dominated his visit, along with the Geneva disarmament talks, could easily have distorted its perspective.

He could not even go so far as to assure the Americans that he was convinced they were seriously trying to achieve tangible results at the Geneva talks with the Soviets, thus making the deployment of the missiles redundant.

Had he done so, he would have been stripped of a very important campaign catchphrase that would clearly distinguish him from Helmut Kohl. Besides, he is not convinced of the Americans' earnestness on this score.

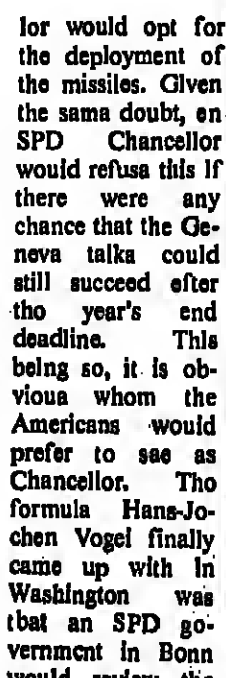
Though this has not been officially confirmed, there can be no doubt that Shultz, Weinberger and others asked Vogel whether he would follow through with his party's decision to deploy the new missiles by December should the Geneva talks break down.

In any event, giving such assurances would have run counter to his party's latest decision on the issue and probably also to his personal stance.

He was in a difficult position in Washington because his party is playing for time regarding American wishes and yet he had to bend over backwards not to offend his hosts.

It is this wait-and-see attitude on the part of the Social Democrats of the post-Schmidt era that distinguishes them from the conservatives.

If in doubt, a conservative Chancellor would opt for the deployment of the missiles. Given the same doubt, on SPD Chancellor would refuse this if there were any chance that the Geneva talks could still succeed after the year's end deadline.



Shadow Chancellor Vogel and Secretary of State Shultz in Washington

Asked whether the Americans had told Vogel bluntly that they would prefer a CDU Chancellor, one of the members of his entourage said that they had gone out of their way to avoid saying anything of this nature.

In fact, the visit was largely marked by avasive formulations. But there was also some straight talk.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Charles Percy, and some of his colleagues are bound to have been interested to learn how the Opposition in Germany assesses Moscow's latest disarmament proposals.

Since the German Social Democrats have always been interested in maintaining contacts with the other super-power Vogel was seen as a mediator

Vogel feted on visit to Moscow

the government (if it wished to be brief).

The same applies to his talks with Prime Minister Tikhonov, with whom he discussed the more practical aspects of German-Soviet ties.

Both Andropov and Tikhonov probably told him things he was bound to be pleased to hear.

Tikhonov spoke of more mammoth business deals along the lines of the natural gas for pipelines deal. He spoke of a coal liquefaction plant and a liquid gas deal.

Andropov evidently elaborated on the missile issue, intimating that Moscow was prepared to scrap some of its SS-20 missiles (instead of just shifting them further East).

He probably also provided some details on his proposal to keep his missiles arsenal in the European part of the Soviet Union at about the level of France's and Britain's.

Vogel asked him whether he meant the number of carriers or the number of warheads.

Another indication as to the importance the Kremlin attributed to Vogel's visit was the fact that a reception given by the German ambassador was so well attended.

There were not only by the Soviet leaders normally considered suitable for

LABOUR

EEC survey spells out the social and health problems of shift work

Shift work is on the increase, an EEC survey shows, and partly due to union pressure for a shorter work-week.

That is by no means the only reason, and the effects and ways of offsetting them are arguably more important.

Merke is a typical shift worker. His early shift is from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., his second from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and his third from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

He works early one week, late the next and nights the third. He has been a shift worker for eight years and says it is a killer.

Either you drink coffee by the gallon or beer, otherwise you just can't stand it.

He doesn't stand much chance of working from nine till five. Times have changed and shift working has definitely increased in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The only likelihood of a respite would be if business grew so bad that firms scrapped nights and worked only two shifts.

Survey by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, which was set up by the EEC Council of Ministers in 1974, has taken a closer look at the entire problem.

One conclusion reached is that in 1975 forty per cent more people worked regular working-hours in the Federal Republic than in 1960.

Why nearly four million, or two million in 10, work shifts.

A major reason for the increase is that there have been shorter working hours for shift workers, whose working week is 16 per cent shorter during the last decade.

Work available takes the same time as before, but the number of workers needed will increase accordingly. But it is unrealistic to assume that productivity has remained unchanged.

More up-to-date machines and improved working methods production can be maintained at the same level with a lower payroll than 20 years ago.

Shorter working weeks alone cannot lead to an increase in the number of shift workers. Pundits nonetheless the trade unions are caught in a dilemma.

They have advocated working less as a demand with a view to creating new jobs, while at the same time campaigning against shift work.

In the next general election, held in July 1982, the Nazis emerged as the largest party in the Reichstag. A majority of the electorate voted for either them or the Communists.

In January 1983 unemployment peaked and the Weimar Republic collapsed.

Once the Third Reich too was over and people set about rebuilding a democratic state in Germany the fear of unemployment remained very real, as sociologists showed time and again.

It was not just because unemployment was alarmingly high just after the Federal Republic of Germany was proclaimed.

Job security held pride of place over all other considerations among the working population even in the economic miracle years that followed, when unemployment declined steadily as time went by and the number of vacancies increased, heralding full employment.

A safe job outweighed everything else, including higher pay prospects. It was impossible to attend recurring

companies that plant shifts for any of time are advised to draw up schedules for six months at a time and staff to plan their private lives a longer period.

Regardless of the arrangement, be



It might be twice a week or a regular system of rotation, including weekends, shift workers can seldom regularly attend, say evening classes.

That not only prevents them from following their hobbies and interests: it also virtually rules out any prospect of further education to graduate from shift work to something better.

The family is particularly hard-hit by shift work. It must either abandon hope of normal family life or adjust to the constant changes in daily routine of the shift worker in the family.

Mention is made of shift workers' wives who reheat meals more than once to feed their husbands and children and remind the children all day to be quiet while the breadwinner is trying to catch up with some sleep after a night shift.

Many wives are critical of shift work because they feel lonely during the nights in question, because loneliness causes anxiety and because they feel a heightened responsibility for bringing up the children.

The damage shift work does is not just social; it is medical too. No-one

can sleep as soundly or as undisturbedly by day as at night.

Even when shift cycles last longer the body still does not adjust to the new rhythm. Body temperature, for instance, remains lowest at night.

That means not only shortfalls in sleep and output: it also makes shift workers more susceptible to certain complaints.

The family naturally suffers from the side-effects of not getting enough sleep regularly, which are general irritability and bad humour.

So why work shifts? Firms say they need to work shifts to recoup capital invested by making the most use of plant and equipment.

But few figures are available to prove the point.

It is fairly easy to work out the wage costs of an extra shift, but other financial aspects, such as higher maintenance costs of machinery that runs 24 hours a day instead of eight, are much more difficult to assess.

One point that is never quantified is the performance shortfall during night shifts and its repercussions on the quality of goods produced.

Scientists set workers reaction tests. The number of mistakes they made increased with each successive night shift, whereas the failure rate was constant

when tests were conducted during the early shift.

As for the "cost" of recovering from a night shift, that is a bill each worker pays individually. Shift workers say they spend much of their leisure time recovering from work.

More frequent sickness or early retirement cost hard cash, but the cost is met by society as a whole via health insurance and pension funds.

Companies pay their contribution toward social security schemes, but they are not in a position to assess the cost to any great extent from their balance sheets, the survey says.

So the foundation suggests setting up a health care system toward which companies contribute in relation to the use made of it by their staff.

Managements would than, it feels, be duty bound to improve medical care and working conditions; they would also be able to justify this interest to their shareholders.

The foundation is well aware that night work cannot be abolished in all walks of life, but it strongly recommends cutting it to a minimum between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

These are working hours for two and a half million people in the Federal Republic of Germany at any given time.

The detrimental effect of working irregular hours and its repercussions on health and social life could be partly offset, the survey says, by:

- using extra staff during shift work;
- early retirement;
- shorter working hours;
- and reducing shift work to a limited number of years in one's working life.

Michael Petersen

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 12 January 1983)

Job security as seen at shipyard

was an expression of the desire for social security felt by those who have nothing to sell but their labour.

Job security is what they most need to be able to plan their lives and those of their families.

Even in and on the way to a booming economy it remained the linchpin of relations between gainful employment and society.

So it is surprising how slight the recession so far to the return of unemployment has been.

In 1975, for the first time in 20 years, unemployment averaged over a million again. There was a slight improvement at the end of the 1970s but it was only temporary.

High birth-rate years are now hitting the labour market already depressed by the general economic recession. That is the position in the 1980s.

A growth rate of between five and six per cent would be needed to return to full employment. In current conditions that seems virtually inconceivable.

Coping with this particular crisis is the foremost task politicians face, and Rationalisierung, Krise, Arbeiter, a survey by Michael Schumann, merits special attention.

Schumann is one of Germany's leading industrial sociologists and head of the Sociological Research Institute, Göttingen.

He and his associates set out in the mid-1970s to study humanization of the

working world in the shipbuilding industry.

Their aim was to probe changes in industrial work from the viewpoint of both capital, in other words the management, and labour, both as individuals and as producers.

The brief alone is interesting enough. The reader is given a detailed analysis of approaches to rationalisation in two shipyards that sought to solve their difficulties in different ways.

There is then an intelligent look at the consequences of rationalisation

Michael Schumann / Edgar Einemann / Christa Siebel-Rabell / Klaus P. Wittemann: *Rationalisierung, Krise, Arbeiter. Eine empirische Untersuchung der Industrialisierung auf der Werk (Rationalisation, Crisis, Workers. An empirical survey of industrialization in shipbuilding)*, published by Europäische Verlagsanstalt, Frankfurt am Main 1982, 577pp, DM58.-

from the viewpoint of shipyard workers. Growing mastery of the production process leads to a reduction in physical and mental demands on the work force, but it also opens up unprecedented opportunities of boosting productivity.

This pressure as a rule more than offsets the advantages of the technical revolution at work. Many workers claim from experience that technical and organizational change at work runs counter to their interests.

So they do not expect much to come of policies aimed at humanizing the working world.

The Göttingen sociologists probed not only the crisis of humanization; in 1977 and 1978 they unwittingly witness-

Continued on page 8

Continued on page 7

Germany's economic expectations for 1983 are modest. This is due in part to widespread uncertainty over the outcome of the March general election, an uncertainty that is delaying investment.

Even so, a number of German firms ordered capital goods such as machinery, cranes and so on before the year's end to benefit from the tri-per-cent government investment subsidy.

But many of these orders anticipate that they can be cancelled after the March elections.

Companies that have long been operating below capacity and are in the red as a result are hanging on, hoping for better days.

Some major corporations, like Arbed Saarstahl, are kept going with government assistance.

As an experienced banker recently put it, the general election will mark the moment of truth.

It is certain that there will be more insolvencies and that more jobs will be lost if things don't improve soon.

The predictions of professional forecasters are gloomy. They all anticipate a further decline in GNP of between 0.5 and 2 percent.

But it must be borne in mind that our starting position is extremely poor. The new Bonn government took over at a point where only the reverse gear was still operational.

The country guzzled ever more fuel in the form of public debt and sped into recession at over-increasing speed.

Still, the overall conditions for an upturn have improved. Fiscal policy has charted the right course towards putting Federal finances back on an even keel.

Even though balancing public sector budgets, especially welfare spending, is

ECONOMY

Prospects promising but investors wait and see

likely to take a decade, Bonn has at least begun to restructure government spending in terms of less consumption and more investment.

The positive effects of the new fiscal policy on the money market are already in evidence.

On the other hand, the public discussion about a possible increase of the maximum rate of income tax from 56 to 60 per cent naturally dampens the prospects of an upswing.

The conservatives should stick to the recommendations they made while in opposition and provide more social and economic justice by being less chary of cutting subsidies for obsolete and no longer competitive companies and by making government benefits subject to incomes below a certain level.

Here, the reduction of child allowances marks a first, though much too timid, step. Another must be to reform the tax system as soon as possible.

A new and sustained economic upturn will depend on a lasting improvement of the framework conditions for business.

The Bonn government has already taken a few steps in the right direction aimed at revitalising the economy, reducing unemployment and balancing the budget.

But where are the politicians willing

to criss-cross the country and explain the new policy to the people?

Instead of going to the people, the Bonn government keeps talking things into the ground to the point where much of what it plans becomes unintelligible to the citizen, like the liberalisation of the rent laws and relief from local taxes.

Opposition slogans like "Distributing Wealth from the Poor to the Rich" only sow uncertainty among workers and consumers. The same applies to the constant and confusing discussion about new tax rates.

Conditions for an upturn are more favourable now than they were a year ago. Interest rates have gone down markedly, helping primarily the construction industry.

Here, the long slump seems to be over as demand rises and a wide range of businesses supplying the construction industry, such as commercial vehicle makers and various artisan firms, are bound to benefit.

Cheaper money promotes investments by making them more feasible in terms of returns, the more so as the gap between returns on investments in security markets and investments in plant and equipment is shrinking.

Moreover, there is also a possibility that householders will rethink and opt for less saving and more consumption.

The Deutschmark is also gaining in stability, its exchange rate against the dollar having risen by five per cent in four weeks.

This means that the bill for oil and commodity imports will go down by several billion Deutschmarks.

To enhance this still further, the Opec list price of \$34 per barrel cannot be maintained and the actual price paid now is more in the region of \$30 or even slightly less. Prices of heating oil and car fuel are dropping.

As things stand at the moment, the Deutschmark is certain to be revivified within the European Monetary System (EMS) in weeks rather than months.

All this will have a highly positive effect on the inflation rate, which is likely to drop below four per cent in the next few months.

This low inflation rate should make it easier for the parties to collective bargaining to arrive at moderate pay deals for this year.

The pay hikes in industry could work out at about three per cent and in the public sector at around two per cent. But it is unlikely that these deals will be clinched before the 6 March election.

The fact is that moderate pay deals are more important than anything else in getting the economy back on its feet.

What is needed is a pact between economic and social common sense that must include everybody. Forgoing exaggerated demands for a short while could result in a medium- and long-term gain and full employment once more.

There is also a reasonable chance that the world recession will be over this year. Business seems to be on the verge of picking up in the USA and forecasts for this year speak of two- to three-per-cent growth in real terms.

This cannot fail to have positive effects.

Poised for upswing, Bonn says

The Bonn Economic Affairs Minister thinks the economy touched its nadir towards the end of 1982 and is now poised for an upswing.

Both the influx of orders seen as early indicators, and the brighter outlook of the community seem to indicate that the economic performance this year will be better than last.

Even so, the Ministry's annual report (likely to be released in January) will probably show a change in GNP (adjusted for inflation) against 1982.

The draft report, which is final at this stage, forecasts for 1983 and an inflation rate of four per cent. This largely accords with the assumptions underlying the draft budget.

If the Ministry follows its plan for the report with its projections for growth, prices and employment, economic indicators will be on a downward trend.

This will be followed by a few separate consultations with representatives of labour and management.

Due to his campaign commitments, the Minister will not be in Bonn anyway. But the treatment given to Vogel is likely to be a Social Democratic move.

A public sector economic council, consisting of representatives of federal, state and municipal governments, is due to coordinate spending plans in January.

Due to the marked economic recovery of last year, the Ministry is likely to elude with a 1.5 per cent increase in GNP.

If no economic impulses ever were to be imparted, there would be a further decline of 1.2 per cent in 1983.

The assumed zero growth in 1983 therefore contains a clear growth element in the second half of the year.

Ministry experts base their optimistic assessment on the increase in industrial demand in 1982.

At first it seemed as if the 10 per cent increase in the influx of orders entirely due to government subsidies applying only until the end of 1982.

But closer analysis showed that orders were not only capital goods but also consumer goods as well. They came from both Germany and abroad and were extremely wide in range.

The great unknown quantity is the future developments in the March general election.

The 'wait-and-see' attitude of the community could become more pronounced as the results of opinion polls come out, but even so, the Ministry holds a number of important indicators for a clear improvement.

They include declining interest rates, a balanced current account, stable commodity prices and government incentives, particularly for the construction industry.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 11 January 1983)

INDUSTRY

Steelmaker Willy Korf calls in receiver

Korf Industrie und Handel, the parent company of the Korf Steel Group, has asked for a court receiver to liquidate it from its creditors.

In a statement released at its Baden-Baden head office the company attributed the decision to "growing liquidity difficulties that are affecting not only the Korf group but wide sectors of the steel industry."

A few years ago, on 13 August 1979, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Industry, Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, visited Willy Korf's 50th birthday.

Part of the text went roughly like this: "Dear friend Willy, whatever your age, I will always be making steel."

A year later, when the Korf group celebrated its 25th anniversary, Lothar Böhle, Baden-Württemberg Prime Minister, said Korf's recipe for success was to convert new ideas into genuine investments.

Now, Willy Korf (nicknamed Willy Vogel in Moscow)

Vogel in Moscow

Continued from page 4

was that he was going to talk to him while in Bonn anyway. But the treatment given to Vogel is likely to be a Social Democratic move.

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the Great) is making an all-out bid to salvage his empire.

Korf, a keen pilot who owns two executive jets, now has to make an emergency landing, after two decades of soaring. It is too early to tell whether he'll crash or not.

Following the parent company's application for a court receiver, Badische Stahlwerke in Kehl, one of the pillars of the empire, has now taken the same step.

It was in Kehl that Korf began his entrepreneurial career in 1950; and before long he had the established steel magnates of the Ruhr shaking in their boots.

Korf and Germany's conservative steelmakers never really saw eye to eye. He fought them with new technologies and, above all, by undercutting their prices.

Even in the past few months, as Europe's steel industry was reeling under the impact of losses, he still managed to undercut his competitors, apparently without regard for the losses he himself sustained in the process.

Since the Korf group is privately owned and does not have to disclose its balance sheets, little is known about its actual financial position.

But putting two and two together, it would seem unlikely that he could have made much in the way of profits since 1974 when the European steel crisis set in.

All in all, his steel division seems to have sustained losses of about DM70m. On top of this there are the losses of his mechanical engineering division.

This is probably offset to some extent by profits in the lucrative plant construction business which Korf operates in partnership with Austria's state-owned Voest-Alpine. But nobody knows whether the gains here will be enough to pull the group out of the mire.

Korf, father of two, is equally fond of grand parties and grand words. Essentially a tough go-getter, he subscribes more to classical liberalism than to the social market economy.

Many a bottle of champagne is likely to have been drunk in celebration by his competitors when news was received on 7 January that Korf had to ask the court to protect him from his creditors.

The fact that this coincided with the last meeting in Düsseldorf of a government-appointed panel of three experts to hammer out a plan that would put the steel industry back on an even keel might or might not be pure chance.

Korf's golden decade was during the boom years from 1965 to 1975. His breakthrough came in the late 1960s when he obtained the licence for a new steel production technique, the Midrex direct reduction process that made it possible to bypass costly blast furnaces in steel production.

In 1969 Korf built his first Midrex steel mill in the USA. This was followed in 1972 by a second one in Hamburg. Today, his group includes 40 plants on both sides of the Atlantic with an annual output of 20 million tons.

Since the Midrex process uses natural gas as fuel, business flourished as long as gas was cheap. But things became increasingly difficult as the price of gas rose.

In retrospect, Korf's 30-per-cent shareholding in the Korf group (it dates back to 1975 but did not become known until 1978) appears in a different light than as seen originally.

Korf apparently lived up to his principle of finding financiers without relinquishing control.

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Willy Korf

(Photo: Wolf Prange)

steel part of the group (excluding plant construction) owns only 13.5 per cent of its assets outright; too much to die and too little to live on.

Germany's steel industry with its payroll of 250,000 now pins its hopes on Bonn and the rescue plan to be presented by the panel of three. In all likelihood, Korf will figure in their scheme of things.

The three experts are Deutsche Bank's Alfried Herrhausen, Allianz Insurance's Marcus Blerich and Veba's Günter Vogelsang.

What has happened to Korf could happen to other steelmakers as well considering the straits in which the industry finds itself.

The crisis has lasted since 1974 and cost the steelmakers billions. And despite EEC efforts at crisis management neither prices nor sales have been right since 1980.

Last summer the situation deteriorated still further although, paradoxically, nobody really knows why.

Leonhard Spielhofer
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 12 January 1983)

Mannesmann's Egon Overbeck steps down



Egon Overbeck

(Photo: Sven Simon)

He was appointed chairman of the Mannesmann board in October 1962.

At that time, the top man at Mannesmann, Wilhelm Zangon, said about his

concept for the new chairman: "He should be young enough to plan over a long period and to be around to make good his management mistakes."

Overbeck met this qualification in an exemplary fashion. Under his management the former coal and steel company developed into the world's largest maker of steel pipes, gearing steel production entirely to pipe requirements.

It was also under his management that Mannesmann diversified in a big way, going into plant and machinery (Demag) and hydraulics (Rexroth).

This has helped to equalise within one company the differences in performance of various branches of industry and has ensured that the 185,000 Mannesmann stockholders were paid healthy dividends.

This road is to be continued by developing Mannesmann into what can best be summed up as a technology concern.

At a point already past the zenith of his career, Overbeck went into communications and information technology by buying an additional sales potential of DM2.5bn, one-sixth of group sales.

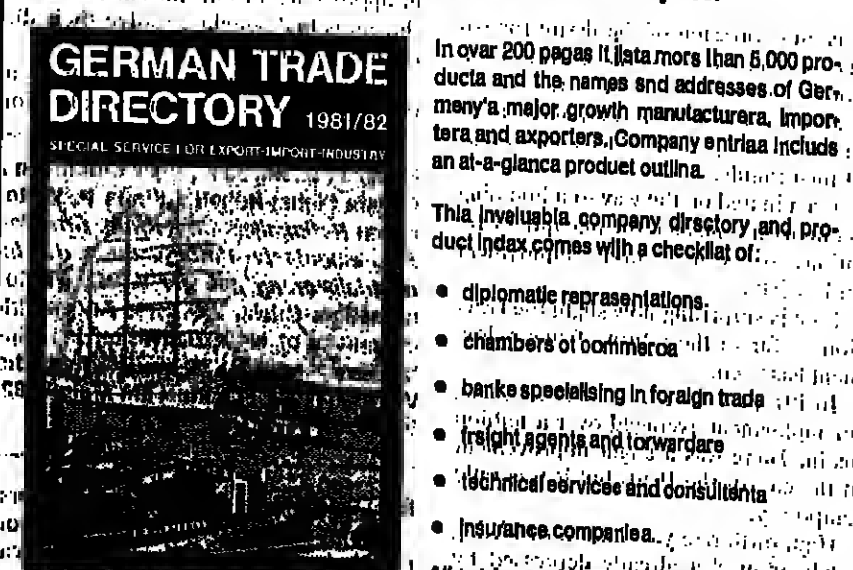
Asked whether labour co-determination in coal and steel, which he had courage enough to criticise publicly, had hampered him, Egon Overbeck said:

"Not so far as the final results were concerned; but it would certainly have been easier to achieve these results without it."

J. Gehlhoff
(Die Welt, 10 January 1983)

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Frankfurter Rundschau, 8 January 1951

Cautlon is celled for; as the authors note. Tha shipyard crisis was fairly li-

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1025-1030.

†Frankfurter Rundschau, 8 January 1961.

Where is Antigone?" asks Ismene. "She couldn't come," she is told. "She has to wait for a matinee exam."

Without Antigone Ismene cannot rehearse their scene, so she retires to a corner of the gym and settles down to a chapter of her physics textbook.

Instead of Scene 9 pupils at a Limburg *Gymnasium*, or high school, rehearse Scene 10 of Sophocles' *Antigone*.

Creon, self-assuredly for an 18-year-old, says his piece:

"Compliance, indulgence, leads to anarchy, the worst of all evils. States are dissolved, families break up, ranks of warriors are broken. That is why we must support the man who establishes and maintains order."

Haimon, speaking an unmistakable Hesse dialect, replies:

"That would be the solution if someone were naturally omniscient and always just. But there is no such person. It takes the balanced judgment of many well-meaning people to arrive at a sound viewpoint."

Heinz Böhlen, the school's German teacher, first corrects the broader slips of local dialect then tells everyone to scale down the pathos.

In all other respects he leaves it to the pupils themselves to interpret the parts they play. It is up to them to develop them as rehearsal progress.

The only direct influence he exerts is in discussing with the entire cast the ideas behind the plot: the dangers faced by the state and the relationship between the state and the law.

They suddenly realize how very topical the issues still are.

Very occasionally Dr Böhlen himself acts a short passage. He is no longer a young man, and he is badly disabled, but on stage he bears witness to unsuspected agility.

And despite letting his cast work it out for themselves he is a strict and exacting director.

"The School Theatre," he says, "cannot make do with the more-or-less or the well-meaning. It must develop a high degree of perfection before it faces the public."

"A group that wants to perform a complete dramatic work on the stage cannot be content with boundless enthusiasm; it must be prepared to put in hard work, effort and ability."

Amateur dramatics are part of life at many schools. Several hundred take part in the annual schools theatre festival in West Berlin.

Continued from page 11

and Reich, the liberation of spiritual and secular life from church tutelage and the dawning of the Modern Age.

The celebrations commemorating the anniversary of Luther's birth are ecumenically meaningful even in our age; yet it would be out of keeping with this age to put him on a pedestal.

The celebrations of the Lutheran churches in Germany will concentrate on the ecumenical idea.

Even Catholic theologians no longer regard Luther's teachings as an element that divides the churches. This approach was spearheaded by the Catholic ecclesiastical historian Joseph Lortz (1887-1975).

The most important thing will be to promote the ecumenical drive and for the churches to use those of Luther's ideas that remain relevant today in the service of society.

Almut Krüger

(Nordwest-Zeitung, 31 December 1982)

EDUCATION

Life learnt on stage and not just in books

Most productions are by high schools, but there are also entries from other secondary schools and there must be many more.

Schools theatre is currently gaining in popularity, having been neglected for several years until the loss grew glaringly apparent.

Regardless of the trend there have always been schools where amateur theatricals formed part of the curriculum. The Rudolf Steiner schools are but one example.

The Limburg group is an old stager, having been run at the school in its present form for just over 30 years.

There have usually been two productions a year, plus plays read and recitals to music. Members of the cast continually change; there have been over 600 over the years.

This number does not include entire classes that take part in a number of productions, either as extras or as ehoirs.

But this constant change need not mean that a company has to dispense with continuity in its work.

Many a pupil has embarked on a theatrical career as a 12- or 13-year-old ticket seller, then played walk-on or bit parts, finally to star in a leading role.

Leaving school has not invariably meant curtains. Many an old boy or girl keeps in touch and still takes part in activities, either regularly or occasionally.

This continuity is unthinkable without the support of a hard-working producer in charge of activities over the years.

He must be a teacher who is unperturbed by difficulties of one kind and another. Many a teacher has launched a theatrical group, then given up when difficulties seemed overwhelming.

Headmasters and other members of staff have been known to have little sympathy. Music and art teachers have refused to lend a hand.

There can be trouble with the stage, with costumes and backdrops and with general organisation.

Such problems have not deterred Heinz Böhlen in Limburg. He read literature and drama at university and

wrote his PhD on the comedies of Molière.

Then, 30 years ago, he launched his school theatre group as a young schoolmaster. With energy and perseverance he has kept it going all these years.

The group is well-known in Limburg and even in its French twin town of Sainte-Foy-lès-Lyon. It is an established part of the cultural scene.

Its productions are seen not only by pupils and their parents but also by many local theatre-lovers.

Audiences regularly include state politicians, the burgomaster, the *Landrat* (a local government official) and the bishop.

Soma productions have been seen by as many as 2,000 people.

The summer production is usually a comedy, preferably a play suitable for open-air performance against the background of the town's picturesque *Altstadt* or in the castle courtyard near the cathedral.

In spring a more serious play, often laden with contemporary criticism, is performed either at the school or in municipal halls.

The plays that have been put on are too numerous to mention, but playwrights have included Schiller, Kleist, Claudel, Camus, Wilder, Goethe, Brecht, Frisch, Goldoni, Eichendorff, Quenau, Mayakovsky, Tardieu, Marlowe, Ionesco and, at regular intervals, Shakespeare.

Productions have also included work written by the pupils themselves.

Titles are chosen in view of a wide range of criteria. At times events in the news, suggest a specific play, such as Camus' *A State of Siege*, after the 1956 Hungarian uprising.

The choice is often made by the cast who are available. Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* was an obvious choice when there were two sets of twins at the school, especially as both were keen to take part.

Not always is the available cast so large as to enable Dr Böhlen to consider putting on, say, Pavel Kohout's *Around the World in 80 Days*.

It is a play with about 90 parts and was finally staged in 1978.

School as seen by students

The debate is conducted over their heads. They are expected to keep quiet and allow themselves to be treated as guinea pigs.

Ordinary everyday lessons no longer seem to interest educational officials and reformers.

Frau Hassio takes a closer look at this aspect, and it is well worth considering.

Her choice of comments, by pupils, teachers and writers, was made without educational intent, but she clearly shows there is unrest at the grass roots.

Little, or no, attention is paid to pupils' personal interests and wishes in

As a matter of principle the play is guided by what young people are capable of doing. Says Dr Böhlen.

"The School Theatre cannot be based on characters and on that result from the character's leading role."

As a rule young people can only stereotypes, or at least parts more or less straightforward.

On stage the laws of the theatre strictly enforced. Speech and movement and coordination need full supervision.

Yet the Limburg group has no tions to compete with professional theatre. It does not see itself as a rival of the professional stage either.

Obviously pupils who are amateur theatricals fancy the idea of becoming actors. But Dr Böhlen's advice is against the idea.

He tells them in no uncertain terms how poor the career prospects are to mention how little money he has earned in acting.

Yet a number of his former pupils have gone on to become actors. Directors at German theatres or on TV, he proudly admits.

But in principle he suspects it would have done so in any case. It does not really rate their careers in any way due to his work.

Schools theatre, he once wrote in *Festschrift*, is a rare alongside art, woodwork and metalwork at school, which is normally done with purely cognitive accumulation of knowledge.

The representational arts, be it part of lessons at all levels of school or a special subject with artistic intentions, have an important creative educational part to play.

They can help the individual to freedom from himself. They can help his faculty of creative imagination. They can help him to develop his individuality.

Playing alongside others he becomes part of a community, learning tolerance and respect for others and develops world tolerance. Artistic yardsticks in coming to work with artistic work.

To paraphrase the title of an essay by the German classical dramatist poet Friedrich von Schiller, Dr Böhlen sees the school stage as an educational institution.

Bernad Erich Hoffmann
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 11 January 1983)

class. Regarded merely as brains filled, they often have no options other than joyless conformity or defiant rebellion.

Teachers are fast worn out by constant refusal of their pupils to cooperate and often serve as targets for hatred and pent-up aggression.

These are the result of demands for performance and achievement in which the pupils see no point.

Why should they bother with school when they aren't going to be able to do the job they want? They are worried about exams, especially the final school exam, the *Abitur*.

They are afraid of being dismissed, failures, upset by the problems of puberty or worried they might be punished for making critical comments.

Frau Hassio's collection of comments makes alarming reading.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 January 1983)

HEALTH

Artificial hand restores 'all but sense of touch'

Artificial limbs have come a long way since Götz von Berlichingen's hand, a marvel of technology 400 years ago and still to be seen at the Museum in Jagst.

People who today have the misfortune to lose a hand don't have to belong to the privileged classes to be fitted with an artificial replacement.

They may be lucky enough to get the 'adaptive' hand, recently presented to the press by manufacturers Grau Felner and Technik of Böhmenküh.

The new device, now ready to go into production, is the result of years of cooperation with the Aalen Technical College.

Like its 400-year-old counterpart in Jagst, the new artificial hand has a stump of the arm to which it is attached. It looks very much like a real hand.

What's more, the patient needs very little practice before being able to use it with purely cognitive accumulation of knowledge.

The hand uses the strongest electrical signals to be obtained from the stump to control movement. They are the signals transmitted to the muscles responsible for the movement of the wrist and the pinkie.

Initially, the patient has to make a conscious effort to think of the movement he wants the artificial hand to perform.

Experiments now in progress use vibrators that report the firmness and strength of a grip. Another approach is to extend the natural nerves in the stump to the point where they can be led to the artificial fingers.

But this has been unsuccessful so far due to such undesirable side effects as skin irritations. Moreover, the extension of the nerves calls for surgery and always entails the danger that the body will reject foreign matter.

Electric shock does not kill instantly. Victims who seem to be dead are still alive and can be saved by instant first aid, though this must be administered within a maximum of three to five minutes.

It is therefore essential that laymen should be able to provide first aid pending the arrival of a doctor. Professor Rudolf Hauf of the Freiburg Research Centre for Electropathology suggested at the 46th Annual Congress in Berlin of the German Society for Emergency Medicine.

Though only one per cent of fatal accidents are due to electric shock, the fatality rate of those involved in such an accident tops the list with seven per cent.

In the Federal Republic of Germany alone there are some 400 fatal electric shock accidents a year. About one-quarter of them occur at home, and of these 15 per cent involve children under the age of nine.

The remaining accidents of this nature occur in industry.

About two-thirds of the fatalities in low-voltage accidents (up to 1,000 volts) die of heart chamber fibrillation, and the remaining third of cardiac arrest, Professor Hauf told the congress.

Due to the high ratio of fibrillation, an emergency doctor should be summoned instantly because his equipment invariably includes a defibrillator.

Professor Ernst Baur of Lucerne, dealt with high voltage accidents where severe burns are the rule.

What matters therefore is a grasp that the object and is thus adaptive, as the makers of the new hand call it. The idea of using electrical impulses to control an artificial limb dates back to the 1940s.

The most obvious approach is to use the electric impulses generated by muscular contractions and to pick them up through electrodes.

The strength of the electrical impulses thus generated corresponds to the strength and the speed of the muscular movement.

The main problem to be overcome lay in the fact that the amount of electricity thus produced was minimal and had to be amplified at an enormous rate if it was to be sufficient to drive the motors.

This rate of amplification, unthinkable 35 years ago, has now become reality.

The entire electronic system in the new limb through which the bioelectrical signals are processed and boosted 40,000-fold has been miniaturised to the point where it will fit into the artificial limb together with the two propulsion units.

One of the two motors is used to move the thumb while the other operates the remaining four fingers.

The energy for the electronic system is provided by a set of batteries carried in a belt around the upper arm. Assuming a consumption of 0.45 milliwatts, a set of batteries is good for about five days.

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Electric shock accident rate down

Though the skin might frequently appear unaffected, the muscles through which the electric current flows are frequently "roasted" in such accidents.

Unless this is diagnosed in hospital, Professor Baur said, death can occur three to four days after the accident primarily due to toxic matter that accumulates in the destroyed muscles.

Statistically, the number of electric shock accidents has remained constant these past few years.

Professor Baur interprets this as a good sign considering that the number of electrical appliances in the home and machinery in industry has increased enormously.

He attributed the stagnating accident figures to better accident prevention at home and at work.

Professors Siegfried Borelli, Hans Dillingmann (both of Munich) and Stefan Perren (Davos) dealt with allergic reactions to sutures, bandaging, prostheses made of metal, ceramic or plastic plus drugs used in anaesthetics and disinfectants.

Since allergies can lead to fatal shock they suggested that the greatest of care be exercised in emergency wards.

Usually, allergies exist before a patient is brought to the emergency ward. In West Germany, for instance, one in ten people suffer from an allergy of one kind or another.

What happens in hospitals is simply that people suffering from chronic allergies suddenly receive an acute allergic shock.

The remedy suggested at the congress was an early diagnosis of allergies in cases of "particularly allergy-prone patients."

This applies particularly to those cases where the accident victim is known to have an allergy (as in cases where this is noted in the ID card).

The four-day congress was attended by more than 900 doctors specialising in a wide variety of fields.

In his closing address, the president of the German Society for Emergency Medicine, Professor Jürgen Probst (Munich), told the congress that the surgeons in charge of emergency wards are increasingly realising the necessity of consulting other specialists (such as urologists, gynaecologists, microsurgeons, internists and allergy experts) in their bid to cope with problem cases.

Even so, the main responsibility rests with the ward surgeon, who has to make on-the-spot decisions. Naturally, this entails the risk of opting for a wrong course of action from the very beginning.

Dieter Dietrich
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 January 1983)



Götz von Berlichingen's 16th century iron hand was manually operated: he used his good hand to move fingers or clench his iron fist.

(Photo: Historia)